

STATE: TENNESSEE

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

NONDISCRIMINATION

Previously approved Statements of federal Non-Discrimination Compliance are on file in the Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights.

STATE OF TENNESSEE

METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION FOR TITLE VI

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972, SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, THE AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975, AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

A. ASSIGNMENT OF AUTHORITY

The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration

The Tennessee Code Annotated states that each authorized department in the State of Tennessee shall have a chief executive officer and that officer will be called Commissioner. The Commissioner is the administrative head of the department and has charge and general supervision of the department operations. T.C.A., Section 4-3-1001 creates the Department of Finance and Administration ("TDFA"). State of Tennessee Executive Order of the Governor No. 23 ("An Order Transferring the TennCare Program and Its Related Functions and Administrative Support From the Department of Health to the Department of Finance and Administration") transferred the Bureau of TennCare from the Tennessee Department of Health to TDFA on October 19, 1999. As a result, TDFA became responsible for the administration of the State Title XIX Program, including the TennCare Program and TennCare Partners Program.

The TDFA Commissioner, being chief executive officer for the single state agency with Medicaid/TennCare funding and in which the Bureau of TennCare resides, designated the ultimate and complete authority and responsibility for Civil Rights for the TennCare Program, TennCare Partners, and the Bureau of TennCare to the TDFA Deputy Commissioner for the TennCare Bureau.

In July 2002 the administrative responsibilities of the oversight of services provided by the TennCare Partners Program were transferred to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities ("TDMHDD"). The TDMH/DDS Commissioner has assigned the primary authority for the continuing implementation of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act in the TennCare Partners Program to the Department's Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator. However, the ultimate and complete authority and responsibility for Civil Rights compliance related to the TennCare Partners Program remained the responsibility of the TDFA Commissioner for the TennCare Bureau.

B. Civil Rights Compliance Officers

As they are related to the State's Title XIX Programs, the TennCare Program (MCOs, DBM and TennCare Partners Programs), the continuing implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Age Discrimination Act), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Americans with Disabilities Act) for the Bureau of TennCare is assigned to the Deputy Commissioner for TennCare and its Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance. Within the Bureau of TennCare, the Deputy Commissioner has assigned the primary authority for the continuing implementation of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act in TennCare Programs to the Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance.

The Director's responsibilities, limitations and authority include:

1. Dissemination of information and the oversight of dissemination of information concerning the obligation of all State Title XIX Programs, the TennCare Program and TennCare Partners Program under the following federal laws.
 - a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - b. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended;
 - c. Age Discrimination Act of 1975;
 - d. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and
 - e. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
2. Providing and monitoring the training sessions, written material, meetings, notices and public announcements relative to the federal and state regulations applicable to this amendment.
3. Maintaining and reviewing reports on initial and annual reviews of the Bureau's own operations, vendors, contractors and other providers of services to assure compliance with all federal and state non-discrimination laws.
4. Receiving, investigating, resolving and monitoring all discrimination complaints from applicants, recipients, and other interested parties related to the State's Title XIX Program, including the TennCare Program (MCOs, DBM and TennCare Partners Program). When Title VI, Title IX, Age Discrimination, Section 504, and Americans with Disabilities deficiencies are validated, the TennCare Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance, the TDMHDD Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator and the State Title XIX Program contractor's Non-Discrimination Coordinator will assure prompt corrective actions as are applicable.

Any State Title XIX Program, including the TennCare Program (MCOs, DBM and TennCare Partners Program) found out of compliance with the provisions of above stated federal non-discrimination law(s) will be given a written notice by certified mail. Failure to correct non-compliance within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice will be considered a violation of the terms of the contract/Risk Agreement, the Statement of Assurance and the applicable federal non-discrimination laws held between the Contractor and the Bureau of TennCare. A validated violation will be basis for capitation payment withhold, or contract suspension, termination or rejection.

Any MCO/BHO/DBM/GME Contractor determined by the Bureau of TennCare to be out of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 can request assistance with interpretation of statutes or regulations of that law that it may find unclear from the Bureau of TennCare.

5. Acting for the Bureau in Title VI, Title IX, Age Discrimination, Section 504, Americans with Disabilities and GME Program civil rights compliance matters with departmental staff, other state agencies, local governments, providers or recipients of departmental program services, the general public and federal agencies.
6. Assuring that contracts or agreements are not negotiated with non-complying vendors such as State Title XIX Programs, including the TennCare Program (MCOs, DBM and TennCare Partners Program), doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, higher education institutions, and other applicable vendors, or if compliance issues cannot be resolved, these contracts or agreements will not be maintained. Also, taking steps to assure that referrals are not made to non-complying facilities, agencies, or other providers of services.

C. State Title XIX Program/TennCare/MCO/DBM/GME Contractor Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinators

Each Contractor will have a designated Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator that acts as a liaison to the Bureau of TennCare's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance. The responsibility, limitations and authority of this position includes:

1. Dissemination of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 information to staff and clients. Orienting staff to Title VI, Title IX, Age Discrimination Act, Section 504, and Americans with Disabilities Act responsibilities;

2. Assist with assuring their organization's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable state and federal laws;
3. Assuring that the practices of the State Title XIX Program/TennCare MCO/BHO/DBM/GME Contractor are in compliance with Title VI, Title IX, Age Discrimination Act, Section 504, and Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines;
4. Making certain that Discrimination complaint forms, complaint procedures, and the Statement of Assurance is on file and available, non-discrimination notices are placed in required locations, language assistance (LEP) is provided, accommodations are made in assisting in the filing of complaints as needed and that all complaints are documented to the Bureau's Director of Non-discrimination compliance;
5. Informing TennCare enrollees that LEP and communication assistance in alternative format are available as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;
6. Assuring that courtesy titles and racial designation (i.e., African-American, Asian, etc.) are properly utilized.

D. Division of TennCare Oversight and EQRO

The Division of TennCare Oversight in the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance and the Bureau of TennCare's External Quality Review Organization (Health Services Advisory Group) in their audits of the TennCare MCOs/BHOs/DBM and other Contractors have the following responsibilities, limitations, and authority vested in them:

1. Completing necessary forms for on-site compliance reviews and submitting the findings to the Bureau of TennCare's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance;
2. Forwarding all Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA and Age Discrimination compliance information obtained during compliance reviews to the Bureau of TennCare's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance for review.

E. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The following methods will be utilized to apprise State Title XIX Program/TennCare/TDM-DDS/GME employees, TennCare's MCOs/BHOS/DBM/GME

Contractor employees, TennCare applicants, enrollees and subcontractors of their requirements and responsibilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990:

1. An in-service training program for all managerial and supervisory staff of the Bureau of TennCare and TDMH/DDS conducted by the Bureau's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance or the TDMH/DDS Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator, as is applicable, (with assistance from the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, the Tennessee Title VI Commission, and/or OCR as needed). State Title XIX Program compliance training is provided and documented by the Tennessee Department of Health;
2. An annual in-service training program for each MCO/BHO/DBM/GME Contractor concerning: its responsibilities applicable to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the responsibilities of its Non-Discrimination Compliance contact person; and its responsibility to provide a non-discrimination training program for all their new employees. Assistance by the Bureau's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance, or the TDMH/DDS Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator, as is applicable, the Tennessee Title VI Commission, and the Tennessee Human Rights Commission will be provided as necessary;
3. State and Federal non-discrimination law information will be provided to new employees in the employee orientation program provided by the Bureau of TennCare's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance and the Bureau's Personnel Director or the TDMH/DDS Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator and TDMH/DDS Personnel Director, as is applicable;
4. A poster 14 inches by 11 inches stating the Bureau of TennCare's and TDMH/DDS' policy concerning Availability of Services, Availability of Accommodations and the Right to complain relating to Title VI will be posted in a highly visible area in the central office of the Bureau of TennCare and TDMH/DDS, as is applicable, and in a similar area of any off-site facility functioning as an extension of the Bureau of TennCare or TDMH/DDS. All MCOs/BHOs/DBM/GME Contractors contracted with the Bureau of TennCare or TDMH/DDS will make the same posting;
5. All contracts for service will contain a statement of assurance in regard to non-discrimination laws;

6. Information, regarding the Bureau of TennCare's/TDMH/DDS' non-discrimination policy will be provided each TennCare enrollee via the incorporation of an assurance of non-discrimination statement in each MCO's/BHO's/DBM's/GME's Contractor's member and provider handbooks. Also, this statement shall be placed on all other media used by a MCO/BHO/DBM/GME Contractor as part of its marketing and outreach plans.

F. MAINTAINING AND ASSURING COMPLIANCE

The following methods will be utilized by TennCare and between TennCare and the MCOs/DBM/GME Contractors in order to maintain and assurance compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

1. TENNCARE

Maintaining and assuring compliance at the Bureau of TennCare will be accomplished in the following manner.

- a. As part of the annual TennCare Title VI Plan and Title IX Plan, a review of quarterly discrimination complaint reporting, and as necessary, in conjunction with the TennCare Personnel Officer, the Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance will conduct routine compliance reviews of the TennCare Bureau. The routine review will be based on, but not limited to, such factors as:
 - (1) A periodic assessment of non-discrimination compliance;
 - (2) A significant increase in complaints in relationship to applicable federal non-discrimination laws;
 - (3) Racial staffing patterns that may represent a problem.
- b. In order to report on the TennCare Bureau's compliance, the Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance for TennCare will complete a Title VI Plan, Title IX for the GME Program, and annually submit it to OCR, Tennessee Comptroller's Office as required by state law, the Tennessee Title VI Compliance Commission, and the Tennessee Title VI Compliance Rights Commission.
- c. The Bureau will maintain racial and ethnic data showing the extent to which members of minority groups are beneficiaries of and participants of the program.

- d. On-site reviews and/or desk reviews will be made as necessitated by complaints and other pertinent data obtained by the Bureau's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance in review of quarterly reports required under the MCOs/DBM/GME Contractors Risk Agreement as outlined in the administration of TennCare Programs.

G. TITLE IX: HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

1. TennCare Bureau Title IX Coordinator

The TDFA Commissioner has designated the ultimate authority for the Bureau of TennCare's Title IX compliance to the Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of TennCare. The Deputy Commissioner has assigned the day-to-day administration and monitoring of Title IX and oversight of compliance with Title IX and all other civil rights legislation, which include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 to the Bureau's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance.

The Director is responsible for developing the Bureau's policies, procedures, and for monitoring the recipients of federal Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding with respect to the requirements of Title IX guidelines. The Director's responsibilities also include preparation of the annual Title IX implementation plan, its updates and related reports, and investigation of Title IX complaints with applicable funding recipients. The Director also works with TennCare's Office of Fiscal Budget on issues regarding the Title IX contract compliance of the medical institutions participating in the State's GME program.

2. Civil Rights Policy

a. General

The Bureau of TennCare has established policies which promote equal employment opportunity and which prohibit discrimination on the basis of legally protected classes, including gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Sexual harassment is also specifically prohibited under the Bureau's policies.

The medical schools receiving TennCare GME funding are contractually required to provide assurances that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of the GME contract or by virtue of the medical institution's employment practices on the grounds of disability,

age, race color, religion, gender, national origin or any other classification protected by Federal, or State constitutional or statutory law.

b. Specific Prohibitions Against Discriminatory Practices

A recipient or Medical School of any federal funds through the Bureau of TennCare may not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, on the grounds of gender:

- (1) Treat one person differently from another in determining whether such person satisfies any requirement or condition for the provision of such aid, benefit, or service;
- (2) Provide different aid, benefits, or services or provide aid, benefits or services in a different manner;
- (3) Deny any person such aid, benefit, or service;
- (4) Subject any person to different rules of behavior, sanctions, or other treatment;
- (5) Apply any rule concerning the domicile or residence of a student or applicant including eligibility for in-state fees and tuition;
- (6) Aid or perpetuate discrimination against any person by providing significant assistance to any agency, organization, or person that discriminates on the basis of gender in providing any aid benefit, or service to students or employees;
- (7) Otherwise limit any person in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity;
- (8) Addressing an individual of a different gender in a manner that denotes inferiority.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: The federal regulation mandating that, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

c. Title IX Compliance and Monitoring

Responsibility for Title IX daily monitoring and compliance will rest with the Bureau's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance. The Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury also monitors the Bureau of TennCare's compliance with the requirements of Title IX.

To ensure that its contractors comply with the requirements of Title IX, the Bureau has established a program to improve its monitoring of GME contractors and recipients of Title IX funds. In preparing the Bureau's Title IX Implementation Plan, the Bureau requires each institution receiving GME funding, (i.e., Vanderbilt Medical Center, MeHarry Medical College, East Tennessee University, and the University of Memphis) to submit a listing of each GME Program resident by name, gender, and program. Each institution also provides copies of their Title IX and other civil rights policies and complaint procedures.

Additionally, the Bureau requires an assurance of non-discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, color, national origin, or disability from all its Contractors. This assurance applies to all programs and services that the Bureau supports financially in part, or fully, with federal and/or state funds. Recipients participating in the GME program are required to submit the following information on an annual basis:

- (1) A description of how the contract was used in support of GME;
- (2) A list of health care providers participating in the GME training program and the amount of funds received from the Contractor;
- (3) The number of residents in each year of training by specialty;
- (4) The names and gender of the residents receiving stipend supplements; and
- (5) Placement sites of physicians graduating from the residency program.

d. Title IX Assurance of Compliance Statements – GME Recipients

Additionally, the Bureau requires each institution receiving GME funding to sign a Bureau of TennCare Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 Assurance of Compliance. This Title IX Assurance of Compliance states that each recipient of GME funding will comply with the provision of Title IX. Copies of each signed Assurance of Compliance are on file with the TennCare Bureau's Director of Non-Discrimination Compliance.